(b) what are the main reasons for the same and to what extent it will be different than the earlier one;

(c) by when final decision in regard to setting up of two Commissions is likely to be taken; and

(d) by what time, the Commissions are likely to submit their reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government propose to set up a Commission on Centre-State relations to look into related issues including issues like sharing of inter-State river water. The Government also propose to set up an Administrative Reforms Commission.

(b) The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations was set up in 1983, which submitted its report in 1988. The policy and economy of India have undergone significant changes since then. Similarly, the last Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) was set up in 1966. Since the findings of the 1966 Administrative Reforms Commission, important developments have taken place necessitating a fresh look at the entire gamut of public administration in the country. The new proposed Commissions have to look at the issues afresh in the light of subsequent developments that have taken place as mentioned above.

(c) Setting up of these Commissions requires inter-ministerial consultations. It will be done in near future.

(d) The Commissions may submit their reports as soon as their work is over, which may take place in one year's time, from the date on which they start their work.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Medical examination of female candidates to the army

571. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no provision of a lady doctor to conduct medical examination of a female candidate for recruitment in the army;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the justification of getting a female candidate medically examined by a male doctor;

(d) whether, keeping in view the growing number of women in the army, Government propose to ask the authorities to appoint lady doctors for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) As far as possible, lady doctors examine female candidates, but due to availability of limited number of lady gynaecologists, it is not always possible for lady doctors to conduct the medical examination of female candidates at all stations. However, examination by a male gynaecologist, wherever necessary, is invariably carried out in the presence of a female attendant. Only visual examination to rule out any congenital abnormality is carried out and no internal examination is conducted.

Procedure of medical examination of female candidates has since been reviewed by the Armed Forces Medical Services and is being modified to ensure that in future gynaecological examination of female candidates is performed only by lady doctors.

Supply of PC-3 Orion Naval Surveillance Planes to Pakistan by U.S.

572. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent news reports on US decision to supply PC-3 Orion Naval Surveillance Planes to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the veracity of the same and the likely impact on the balance of Naval forces in the region?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government has seen news reports regarding the US intent to supply PC-3 Orion Naval Surveillance Planes to Pakistan. The veracity of the news reports has been established. In the event of Pakistan acquiring these planes, her surveillance capability in Arabian Sea will be greatly enhanced.